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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION TO ADD RULE 38(j),</b>	)	<b>SUPREME COURT NO. R-</b>
<b>REGARDING ADMISSION TO</b>	)	
<b>THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA</b>	)	<b>COMMENT TO PETITION TO ADD</b>
	)	<b>RULE 38(j), REGARDING ADMISSION</b>
	)	<b>TO THE STATE BAR OF ARIZONA</b>
	)	

Pursuant to Rule 28(D), Rules of the Supreme Court, the undersigned respectfully submits this Comment for the Court's Consideration.

My name is Erin Brockhoff, and I am writing in support of the petition to amend Rule 38, Rules of the Supreme Court regarding admission to the State Bar of Arizona for military spouses while stationed in Arizona on military orders.

My husband is an officer in the United States Air Force and recently received orders to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson following a year-long tour in Afghanistan. We will be moving to Arizona in August 2012 after spending four years stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

This will be my second permanent change of station as a military spouse and an attorney. Fortunately, our first assignment after getting married was in Illinois where I attended law school and took my first bar exam. After being sworn in to the Illinois bar in November I also took the Missouri bar exam the following February to increase my opportunities for employment since Scott AFB is only a few miles from the Illinois-

Missouri border.

Under the current Arizona Supreme Court rules governing the admission to practice law, I am not eligible for admission without examination because I do not satisfy the requirement of practicing law for five out of the last seven years. My options in Arizona are to take the bar exam again for the third time in four years, find employment under the limited admission to work in federal law, work for legal aid, or as in-house counsel.

Among the several considerations of taking another bar exam as a military spouse are the costs associated with preparation and testing, as well as lost time waiting for test dates and results. Since it has been four years since I took the bar exams in Illinois and Missouri, I would likely have to enroll in a test preparation course or obtain test preparation materials at a significant expense. In addition to the preparation, the expense of actually registering and sitting for the bar is another consideration, especially when I am not employed.

The timing of our move is another factor. Because we do not move to Arizona until August, I will have to wait to take the bar exam until February 2013 and as a result I will not be admitted to practice law in Arizona until at least April 2013. At that time, I will have been residing in Arizona for eight months. Because my husband is likely to be stationed in Arizona for approximately three years, this leaves me with just a little over two years to find employment and work as an attorney under the current rules.

Approving the new rule would significantly improve my ability to continue my legal career in Arizona by clearing one of the boundaries that challenge military spouse attorneys when relocating to a new area. If I can be admitted without waiting to take the

bar exam, I will have significantly more time to search for a position and consequently more time to actually serve in that position before relocating for my husband's next assignment. Additionally, it will allow me to focus on my career, the practice of law, and helping to support our family.

I have witnessed first hand the difficulty that military spouse attorneys face in attempting to continue their careers while supporting their spouse's active-duty service. As a result, I fully appreciate that many couples are forced to choose between one spouse's career over the other's. This type of decision results in a loss not only to the individuals involved, but also to the legal profession or the military.

The adoption of Rule 38(j) will give me, and other military spouses like me, the opportunity to continue my legal career while supporting my military spouse and his service to our nation.

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